

Marine Region Program Descriptions and Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives

Program: Fisheries Management – State/Federal Managed Species

This program supports management activities affecting California and California fishermen under federal and state jurisdiction through the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). Staff collects, analyzes and reports stock assessment and other fishery-related data necessary to manage California's fisheries resources on a sustainable basis, taking into account associated resources and the habitats upon which they depend. The mixed international and national jurisdiction of these fisheries dictates the Department work closely with other Pacific states and federal agencies to ensure effective management. Staff also assists in regulation development for use in the Commission regulatory process.

Project: Groundfish Management

The Department provides annual and in-season management options and recommendations to the Commission and the PFMC for commercial and recreational fisheries based on analysis and review of fishery dependent data. Some project staff conducts stock assessment modeling and participates in assessment reviews. Project biologists serve as California members on the PFMC Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee to represent the state's unique fisheries. "Groundfish" refers to the 90 species listed in the Federal Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FGFMP) and primarily includes species in the following groups: rockfishes, sharks, skates, and flatfishes. Implementation of the state Nearshore Fishery Management Plan (NFMP) also coordinated through this project. Sixteen of the nineteen NFMP species are also in the FGFMP.

Budgeted Resources Dedicated to the Project: This project includes 10 permanent positions, one permanent intermittent position and a Personal Services budget of \$858,047.

Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives for FY 2006-07: In order to coordinate management of these species the Department must maintain and enhance strong working relationships with researchers and other agencies working on groundfish including National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, the Pacific states, and the PFMC. Key outcomes or products expected this fiscal year include:

- Stock assessment for blue rockfish conducted with a full peer review and pre-assessment data workshop.

- Appropriate long term management strategy developed for California sheephead based on recent research results and previous stock assessment results.
- Assembling constituent input from six public meetings, and analyzing recent fishery participation and port-based activity for determining a state perspective for refining federal Trawl Individual Quota alternatives.
- Fishery characterization reports prepared on primary groundfish fisheries for use in management and regulation development.
- Project plan, research needs and timeline developed for moving nearshore species from “data poor” to “data moderate.”
- New Associate Biologist and Biologist hired and trained to focus on California’s recreational groundfish fishery; the Associate will assume the Department’s GMT recreational fishery position at the PFMC and coordinate chili-pepper rockfish research under Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs). The Biologist will develop proficiency with analysis of the California Recreational Fisheries Survey program.
- Hire and train the other new Biologist to expand the Marine Region website dedicated to groundfish issues and summarize results of a nearshore tagging study.

Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives for FY 2007-08:

- Key background materials prepared for components of Open Access Limitation program specifically addressing recommendations for integrating the state’s Nearshore Fishery Permit programs.
- Develop data and modeling needs for multi-species groundfish stock assessment approach.
- Proposed changes to sport and nearshore commercial fishing regulations for 2009-10 developed for federal National Environmental Protection Agency and Commission process.
- Fish Bulletin on Nearshore Stock Assessments completed.
- Reports completed on chili-pepper rockfish EFP research for the PFMC by the new project Associate Biologist.
- The new Biologist will publish results of the tagging study in a peer-reviewed publication.